



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

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Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

On behalf of the U.S. producer companies of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), I write to express our support for H.R. 3080, the Water Resources, Reform and Development Act, to authorize much needed funding for the construction, rehabilitation and modernizing of critical water-related infrastructure projects. AISI is the principal trade association representing the North American steel industry and represents member companies accounting for more than three quarters of U.S. and North American steelmaking capacity.

The steel industry relies heavily on water-born infrastructure for the transportation of raw materials, such as scrap, coal, and iron ore, that are necessary to produce American made steel, and also for the safe and efficient transportation of finished steel products fundamental to the transportation construction industry and domestic manufacturing. We are pleased that H.R. 3080 responds to the need to invest in our nation's ports by gradually increasing investments for harbor maintenance and seaport dredging, and that it frees up revenues for inland waterways lock and dam modernization by reducing the federal share of the Olmstead Lock and Dam project. More than 50% of inland locks and dams have exceeded their design life, and as their function is vital to the safe and efficient transport of steel making materials, we look forward to working with you to further strengthen revenues for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.



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According to a recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers, aging infrastructure in our nation's ports and waterways was responsible for delays costing \$33 billion in 2010, and costs are expected to increase to nearly \$49 billion by 2020. Reducing these costs will help improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and their suppliers who create jobs and economic opportunities around the country. At a time when our nation is most in need of economic growth, H.R. 3080 contains policies that will put Americans back to work by limiting the time and costs under which projects can be studied, and by streamlining, consolidating, and eliminating duplication in the review of projects to help quickly deliver steel intensive projects, such as dams, locks, levees, and proper dredging. The reforms contained in H.R. 3080 will also help reduce congestion at our nation's ports, minimizing logistical delays and compounded expenditures - important measures to our member company steel producers, as well as our up-stream suppliers and down-stream customers who depend on just-in-time deliveries.

It is time that Congress focus on the crucial role our nation's ports and inland waterway systems play in domestic and international commerce, and the investments that are necessary to maintain and enhance our nation's global economic competitiveness. H.R. 3080 is indeed a new way to do business and we look forward to working with you and your Congressional colleagues to swiftly enact water resources development legislation that will address the infrastructure needs on which our nation's economic growth is dependent.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gibson
President and CEO
American Iron and Steel Institute

Cc: The Honorable Nick Rahall (D-WV)
The Honorable Bob Gibbs (R-OH)
The Honorable Tim Bishop (D-NY)